

find it in ourselves somehow to take care of these kids, these Head Start kids. We are just going to say I am sorry, that is the way it is.

I haven't made up my mind yet whether I am going to offer this amendment tonight, or whenever that CR gets over. I have a right to. It will probably get tabled which means killed. The word has already gone out that we will probably have to table the Harkin amendment. I suppose people will say there goes HARKIN again. We want to get out of town and he has something else.

I don't know. I haven't made up my mind yet. I wanted to set the record straight. You are going to hear about it. Senators are going to hear about this in January. You are going to hear about the fact that Head Start kids for some reason can't get on these paratransit buses and we are wondering why it happened.

I don't know, I may offer the amendment tonight, and if someone moves to table, I may ask for a rollcall vote, and we will see how important 54,000 kids are compared to 435 Congressmen over there who can't come back in a moment to take care of these kids in January and February, the coldest parts of the winter in certain parts of our country. So we will have to see, we will see what happens to the CR when it comes over. I guess I want to tell my colleagues they will probably have to vote on this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

HONORING JEANE KIRKPATRICK

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise to pay homage to a very special lady. I mourn her passing today, a great American patriot, Jeane Jordan Kirkpatrick. She, of course, is best known as our Ambassador to the United Nations under the Presidency of Ronald Reagan, but her history was of a dedicated American in public service before that.

She first rose to international prominence as a foreign policy adviser to Ronald Reagan's first Presidential campaign. Although she considered herself a Democrat at that time, she always placed principle above partisanship. In Governor Reagan, she saw a man who shared her commitment to freedom and democracy and was willing to call evil by name.

As America's first female permanent representative to the United Nations, Jeane served President Reagan from 1981 to 1985, and was an eloquent promoter of American values. She once said, "I think that it's always appropriate for Americans and for American foreign policy to make it clear why we feel that self-government is most compatible with peace, the well-being of people, and human dignity."

Since leaving full-time Government service, Jeane Kirkpatrick has served as an educator, commentator, a wise

woman whose counsel has been highly sought after. She has continued to be a passionate advocate for human rights and has also actively supported missile defense, United Nations reform, and the war against Islamic fascism. Most recently, I have had the pleasure of working with Jeane on the Committee on the Present Danger, which Senator LIEBERMAN and I cochair, and on which she played an important advisory role.

America has lost a great patriot and defender in Jeane Kirkpatrick. She will be sorely missed, but she will certainly be fondly remembered.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I also will say a word about a couple of my colleagues who are leaving, and I will be brief.

WILLIAM FRIST

I know we were all impressed with the comments of our majority leader, BILL FRIST, yesterday. I wish him godspeed in his new endeavors. He certainly has been a joy to work with as part of the Republican leadership because of his good temperament, his wise counsel, his knowledge of human nature, and his deep commitment to this body, the people of Tennessee and, most importantly, to the United States of America.

DENNIS HASTERT

I also want to acknowledge that we will no longer have as Speaker of the House of Representatives in a couple of weeks a colleague of mine when I first came to the House of Representatives, DENNIS HASTERT of Illinois. I saw DENNIS this morning at the White House with the President, who also acknowledged the great contribution of DENNIS during his period as Speaker of the House. Since we were colleagues coming to the House of Representatives in 1986, I will say a special word of thanks to DENNIS for his service.

KATIE ALTSHULER

Mr. President, I wish to make some comments about Katie Altshuler. Katie has been the head of the Republican policy committee the last several months and has served several of us here in this body, primarily with her work here on the floor of the Senate. Katie will be greatly missed by all the staff of the Republican policy committee but also by the staff of all of the Senate family here, who know that she was a very big part of that Senate family. She and her husband will be returning to Oklahoma. I know all of us wish her well. She is one of those little sparks of humanity who makes life a little bit more worthwhile at some of these long nights and weekends that we occasionally have to spend here in the Senate.

RICK SANTORUM

I also acknowledge that several of my colleagues will not be with us after we conclude our business tonight, tomorrow, the next day, or whenever we

are going to conclude our business here, colleagues with whom I have served with a great deal of pleasure. My friend RICK SANTORUM was serving in the leadership. We both served in the House of Representatives. He was a great inspiration to the Republican team here, and I know everyone, Democrat and Republican, respects him for his commitment, values, and ideals.

CONRAD BURNS

CONRAD BURNS is a fellow westerner with whom I have shared much and always enjoyed the humor that CONRAD brought to this body.

JIM TALENT

JIM TALENT from Missouri is another colleague from the House of Representatives. He is another serious and dedicated public servant whom I suspect we will see more of in the future.

GEORGE ALLEN

GEORGE ALLEN, a great colleague with whom I also served one term in the House of Representatives, and whose philosophy of "freedom first" is certainly one that I share. I know we are going to miss GEORGE and his sage counsel in the years to come.

MIKE DEWINE

MIKE DEWINE and I served together on the Judiciary Committee. We came together to the Senate at the same time and I will certainly miss MIKE's friendship as well.

LINCOLN CHAFEE AND PAUL SARBANES

Finally, LINCOLN CHAFEE. Although I mentioned Republicans in this list, I certainly don't want to forget, of course, PAUL SARBANES, who will be leaving at the end of this year, and others in the House of Representatives with whom I served as well. I know we all move on at some time and that none of us is irreplaceable. But by the same token, these colleagues of ours who will be leaving will be missed and they will be remembered for their great service to the Senate, to their States, and to the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, what is the current status on the floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in a period of morning business.

VETERANS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND S. 3421

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I have sought recognition in these waning hours of the 109th Congress to provide a summary of the good work accomplished over the last 2 years on behalf of America's veterans, and to comment on comprehensive legislation that is now pending in the Senate. I provide this summary in my capacity as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, a title I will soon pass on to my friend, Senator DANNY AKAKA of Hawaii.

Before the 109th Congress convened, I made a decision to serve as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs